

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAN INDICTED FOR HAULING 50 ILLEGAL ALIENS IN TRACTOR TRAILER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on February 18, 2004, Alonso Ruiz-Avila, DOB 12/30/1963, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Phoenix, Arizona for Transporting Illegal Aliens. On January 26, 2004, Ruiz-Avila was driving a Freightliner tractor trailer when he stopped at a Border Patrol checkpoint on Highway 95 north of Yuma, Arizona at approximately 12:15 a.m. Ruiz-Avila told the Border Patrol agents that he was hauling citrus crates, but could not produce any documentation for the load. He then consented to a search of the trailer. Border Patrol agents removed some of the crates that were stacked in the back of the trailer and discovered a large number of people hiding in the trailer behind the crates. The aliens had entered the trailer in a citrus grove in Yuma and had been shut inside for approximately two hours. In all, Border Patrol agents found 50 illegal aliens in the back of the trailer, including 4 from El Salvador and 46 from Mexico.

The investigation is being handled by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution is being handled by Gary M. Restaino, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

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